DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

23 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: CORONA Changes

In February 1964 Dr. McMillan attempted to get a firmer grip on the CORONA management by establishing the policy (Tab 1) that all CORONA technical directives would be approved by the DNRO or his Deputy.

This procedure has proved cumbersome and slow and there has been an increasing tendency to accomplish "small" modifications by the use of an Auxiliary Work Authorization issued by the CIA.

The requirement for DNRO approval is however the only formal mechanism for insuring that changes are coordinated between the CIA and SAFSP.

A/P and SAFSP are preparing to incorporate several changes into the recovery capsule such as a lighter ablation shield, wiring changes for easier access, and a new squib activated battery. These are critical components, and, even though the changes are apparently desirable, I recommend that we reconfirm the principle that the DNRO should approve all significant CORONA changes by signing the attached message.

ALBERT W. JOHNSON
Major, USAF

[redacted]

Uncontrolled

[redacted]NTROL CHANNELS ONLY

Classification
SECRET

Originator:

Maj Johnson/eak

Date: 23 Dec 65

DISTRIBUTION

A-1														RF-1	RF-2	FILE
[redacted]																

Precedence

PRIORITY

PRIORITY

WHIG

Addressee(s)

Action: [redacted]

Info: [redacted]

CORONA

[redacted]39

THE DNRO HAS REQUESTED THAT A JOINT PRESENTATION CONCERNING THE PROPOSED RECOVERY VEHICLE WIRING, HEAT SHIELD, AND BATTERY MODIFICATIONS AND ANY PROPOSED ORBITAL TESTS OF THESE MODIFICATIONS BE MADE TO HIM ON 13 JANUARY. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NO HARDWARE WILL BE COMMITTED TO FLIGHT PRIOR TO THIS MEETING.

APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL DIRECTIVES IMPLEMENTING THESE RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL AT THE MEETING.

Originating Officer

[redacted]

[redacted]ONTROL CHANNELS ONLY

Classification
SECRET

Releasing Officer

[redacted]